

Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN)
Meeting

Date: October 23, 2014
Location: 111 N Sanders Rm 207
Time: 10:00 – 3:00 pm.

Attendees: Kelly McNurlin (DDP), Phyllis Astheimer (Family Outreach), Jannis Conselyea (DDP), Dorrie Fishback (Family Outreach), Randy Winstead (Family Outreach), Bill Harant (DETD - SILC), Karen Cech (recorder).

Phone Attendees: Diane Reidelbach (Job Connection), Shannon Merchen (DDP Reg 3 Manager), Sarah Troutter (ORI Reg 3), Rob Tallon (REACH), Lorrie Lundberg (DDP CM Reg 5).

➤ **Roll Call and Opening Remarks**

➤ **State's Waiver Transition Plan** - Kelly gave a brief explanation to the SELN workgroup about the CMS Home and Community Based Waiver Rule that was put in place March 17, 2014. This rule applies to all DPHHS departments that have federal waivers. CMS has given all states a transition period to develop a plan to comply with the new rule. There will be a public hearing on the he Transition Plan October 28, 2014 at 9:00 am in the Sanders Auditorium for individuals to make public comments. More information can be found on the DDP Website at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcbs/>.

➤ **Next Meeting date** – Due to holidays falling on the next SELN meetings in November and December the two meetings will be consolidated into one. Kelly will send out an e-mail to the group and e-mail will be sent out for a meeting the first or second week of December.

➤ **Continued Discussion on Areas of Focus for FY15** – The Major Focus Area Summary document that was developed September 29, 2011 was e-mailed out to the SELN workgroup. This document was created when Rie Kennedy-Lizotte and John Butterworth from the National SELN worked with the SELN workgroup to narrow the focus on areas the group thought needed to be working on. In reviewing the twelve areas it was determined that some areas are still relevant to work on and some areas could be combined with other.

1. **Revise and expand waiver service definitions to support employment as outcome (2)** - This area has been accomplished for now but will likely need to do a re-assessment.
2. **Review PSP and PSP process to embed employment as a focus (6)** - Kelly will contact Lindsey Carter who is working with a PSP group to see if changes are made that they may look at incorporating employment options in the PSP plan.

3. Develop systematic approach to supporting transition and improving collaboration during the transition process (5) -
Some of the workgroup express interest in this area. Bill Harant mentioned that WIOLA (workforce act) needs to be looked at when developing an approach.
4. Develop an employment outcome data strategy (6) -
Have done a little work but still need to fully address. Need to create an efficient way to gather data.
5. Develop DDP communication and outreach plan for employment (5) -
Not going to tackle just yet.
6. Define employment outcome and finalize policy guidance -
This area has mostly been done through new waiver definitions. With HCBS rule SELN may want to see what guidance CMS gives. The group may want to incorporate definitions into the PSP.
7. Establish mechanisms for collaboration and sharing across providers and state systems -
With changes in the HCBS rule it may not be effective working on this area at this time. This area may need to be broke down into sections.
8. Develop standard practices for coordination between VR and DDP -
All agreed this area is a sub-component of six and needs to be added to six.
9. Develop a coordinated statewide plan for training and development of employment competencies -
The development of the employment specialist curriculum has been done but the other components need to be looked at.
10. Create a resource guide that maps the pathway to employment and available resources -
This will be touched on in the other areas but is important to develop.
11. Review funding structure (16)
 - a) Review resource allocation process to improve flexibility - DDP did present an option with day habilitation and supported employment and broke services into 5-6 services. A flexible process may need to be considered.
 - b) Review payment structures - This may need to be looked at and discussed.
 - c) Review 20 hour rule for supported employment - 20 hour rule has been reduced to 12 hours.
This one has been addressed. However, we should still look at making improvements for a) and b).

12. Review the role of EE funding and its relationship to DDP resources (1) -
Kelly worked with Mike Hermanson and some clarifications were made in the VR Referral Guidelines for DDP. This will need to be reviewed periodically.
13. Develop and/or revise staff competency standards for employment services (4) -
The curriculum was developed so this is complete.

Meeting was adjourned for a lunch break.

- **Webinar of recording from ODEP: Pathways to Employment -** Webinar was presented.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm. An e-mail will be sent out to the SELN workgroup on the date for the next meeting in December.